

Everything you need
to know about...



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FIRE'S



NEW



Direct Edition
by - **JOE BENITEZ**
& - **PETER STEIGERWALD**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Trained from birth to be an assassin, Iris spent her youth in the brutal 'Academy' in mainland China, honing her skills in martial arts, swordplay and sharpshooting. Soon after graduation, Iris was under the employ of a notorious crime lord—a vicious corporatist known as Mr. Ching. She acted as his personal Executive Assistant: servant, bodyguard, and killer-for-hire. In exchange for her servitude, Iris was furnished with a life of luxury where she wanted for nothing, but soon, material possessions weren't enough to satiate her.

She wanted freedom.

Battling insurmountable odds, Iris eventually rid the world of Mr. Ching, undoubtedly saving countless lives in the process ... but the absence of China's crime lord left a powerful vacuum, and new threats began to arise. Iris re-dedicated herself to being an Executive Assistant, but this time as a protector instead of a servant. She was no longer going to allow herself to be wielded as a blunt object by those in power, killing indiscriminately in the pursuit of material gain. Now, at a crossroads of her life (and with the battle scars to prove it) Iris must choose between continuing her journey alone, or partnering with the powerful Magni Corporation. In a world of assassins where careers are short—and life spans are even shorter—she's unsure how much longer she can survive as a freelancer.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS THE MAJOR PLAYERS:

Iris



Born in Wuhan, China, and orphaned from birth, Iris was raised at a facility devoted to training young girls in a variety of ways, from martial arts to etiquette, all designed to create the perfect Executive Assistant—a companion, bodyguard, secretary and assassin all in one. Hired by a ruthless Chinese businessman, Mr. Ching, Iris performed her duties meticulously and without question, until his relentless ambition led her to commit actions that grew ever more ethically questionable. When Iris questioned this, her employer turned on her, and in order to survive, she was forced to kill him. Since then, she has worked for several other employers as well as the United States government, still meticulously, but always adhering to her own strict sense of ethics-- always doing what she believes is right.

Rose



A couple of years older than Iris, Rose took pity on the younger girl when she arrived at the academy, helping Iris as she learned how to succeed there. Eventually, the two became executive assistants to rival employers, and they were forced to fight. Although Rose fought magnificently with her trademark shuriken, Iris emerged victorious, seemingly killing her. She survived, though, and was ultimately forced into servitude by Duncan Villone. Eventually freed from his control by Iris, the two have since teamed up to fight a common enemy, but Iris knows she can never truly trust Rose.

Mr. Ching



CEO of a Chinese multinational corporation, Ching purchased Iris from the facility when she was a teenager. Using her as a bodyguard as well as a killer and his personal concubine, he carved out an empire for himself in legitimate businesses, as well as among organized crime groups in China and Japan. Involved with illegal oil pipelines as well as drug and weapon sales, Ching underestimated Iris' morality and overestimated her loyalty...and eventually fell victim to her after he tried to execute her.

Duncan Villone



Seemingly a benign technology mogul, Duncan Villone invested heavily in brain research and discovered a way to control people's minds. Using this technology, Villone purchased a number of Executive Assistants and surgically implanted chips in their brain so he could control all their actions. Getting involved with his machinations, Iris gathered a team of her own and brought down Villone's plans, freeing the Executive Assistants in the process.

Mazutsu



After the death of Ching, there was a void in the Asian underworld as gangs vied for power again-- that was brutally filled when Mazutsu arrived to take the reins. Although a successful president of a vast corporate empire spanning the world of intelligence and technology, Mazutsu was really a gangster thug wearing the cultured suit of a businessman. With no regard for ethics or mercy, Mazutsu waged a vicious campaign against the Executive Assistants with the help of one of their own--Rose.

Lotus



Lotus was born into a wealthy family living in Alwar, India. Abandoned by her mother when the girl was just two years old, Lotus, née Rani, was raised by her father, a professional assassin. Even at an early age, Lotus was proficient with technology and gadget-creation, but her father believed that only through training in the "family business" would she remain safe in the world. When Lotus was a young adult, her father was killed by a rival known as Tiger, who revealed herself as Lotus' mother. The two battled, and Lotus defeated Tiger using a combination of skills her father taught her and the tech savvy she was born with. Now, she has assumed her position in the family business, but her paths have crossed with Iris and other Executive Assistants, pooling their vast skills to fight for the greater good.

Orchid



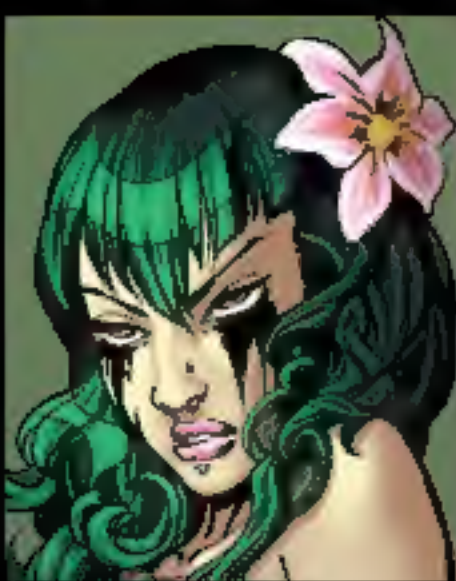
Trained at the Latin American Executive Assistant school, Orchid embraced her training and education with an undaunted passion. Born and trained in Columbia, her personality was perfect for that chapter of the school, which eschews etiquette classes in favor of increased will-strengthening exercises as well as more advanced Jiu Jitsu techniques. Orchid hoped to make a difference in the world, so when her first charge was the son of a local drug lord, she quickly grew disillusioned. Ultimately, she turned on her fellow assistants in the battle against Duncan Villone, and there, secured her fate.

Violet



Violet is one of a very small number of Executive Assistants whose mother, Aster, is one as well. Entering the posh London school at a very young age, Violet embraced her upbringing, that while rigid, was significantly more cordial than the often brutal training Iris and her cohorts endured during their tenure at the Chinese school. Although she sometimes wondered if she should have enjoyed a more subdued life, Violet served her conscience and her employers with the zeal that all Executive Assistants possess up until her untimely death.

Lily



A fellow student at the school where Iris was trained, Lily was one of its best and most confident fighters until she was defeated by Iris in the ring. This set off a chain reaction that ruined Lily's life there. Rather than become an Executive Assistant for a businessman, she was sold into prostitution in Tokyo, where she became a drug addict. Her life changed after a chance encounter with Iris empowered Lily to rebel against her gangster-pimp, killing him, and saving Iris' life. Since that time, the two worked together several times, but Lily never lost the pessimism that pervaded her life.

Diane Coverdale



Married to one of the most successful businessmen in the world, Diane Coverdale took the helm of his vast empire after he was assassinated under mysterious circumstances. Knowing she needed the best protection money could buy, she acquired the Executive Assistant Acteia for protection. But even her brash protector couldn't prevent Coverdale from succumbing to the machinations of Duncan Villone, who took Coverdale's company, and then used her mind-controlled Executive Assistant to take Diane's life.

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

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THIS IS SHANGHAI, CHINA.
THE FASTEST GROWING CITY
IN THE FASTEST GROWING
COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

TO WHAT DO I
OWE THIS PLEASURE,
MISTER KRILOV?

WITHIN THESE
BUILDINGS,
THOUSANDS OF
DEALS ARE
CONSUMMATED
EVERY DAY...

...RESULTING IN
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
CHANGING HANDS.



I WISH I HAD
BETTER NEWS, MISTER
CHING. BUT IT APPEARS THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS
HAS NULLIFIED ALL FOREIGN
INVESTMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE
DEVOTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE PIPELINE THAT YOU
HAVE SO GENEROUSLY
SUBSIDIZED.

HOW UNFORTUNATE.
SURELY THERE MUST
BE SOMETHING I CAN
DO TO PROTECT MY...
INTERESTS THERE.



PERHAPS THERE IS A
WAY I CAN HELP.. GIVEN
THE PROPER INCENTIVE...
SAY, PERHAPS, 500,000
EUROS TO WHET
MY BEAK.

SINCE WE ARE A
CIVILIZED NATION,
THESE TRANSACTIONS
USUALLY OCCUR
WITHOUT INCIDENT.



BUT SOMETIMES,
LESS THAN SAVORY
INDIVIDUALS FEEL
THE NEED TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
HONEST
BUSINESSMEN.

OF COURSE.
THANK YOU, MISTER
KRILOV. I'LL BE
IN TOUCH.



AND WHEN HE IS UNABLE TO
TURN TO HIS GOVERNMENT,
OR TO THE POLICE, THE
HONEST BUSINESSMAN HAS
BUT ONE RECOURSE...



...AND WE SERVE OUR
EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS
WITH HONOR.

BORN AN ORPHAN, I WAS
TAKEN FROM A DISMAL LIFE
ON THE STREETS OF A POOR
VILLAGE NEAR WUHAN, CHINA,
AND BROUGHT HERE...

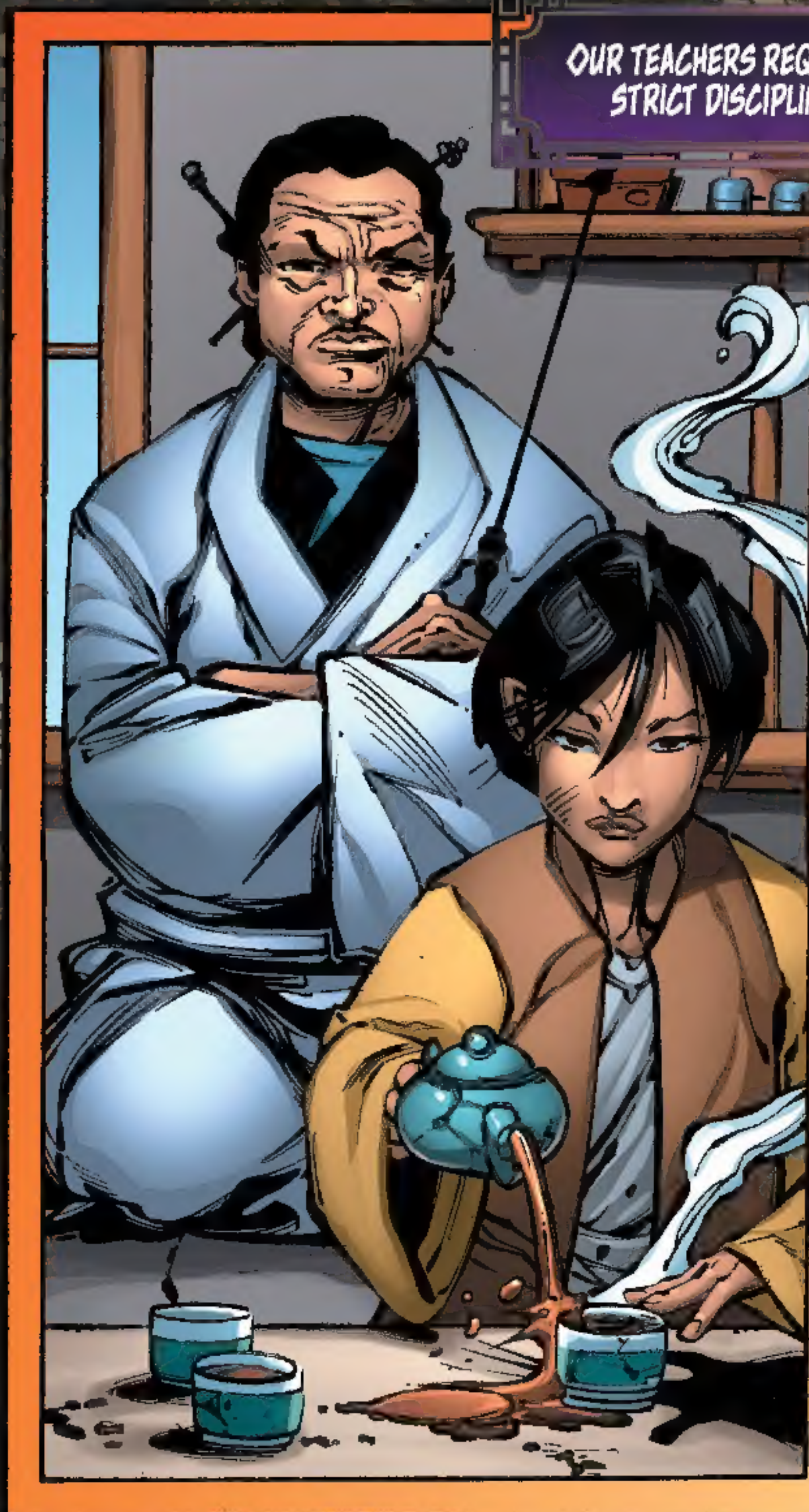
...TO MÈI RÓNG XUÉ XIÀO, OR THE
ACADEMY, AS THEY CALLED IT.



THE ACADEMY PROVIDED GIRLS LIKE
ME WITH AN OPPORTUNITY IN A NATION
THAT HAD ALREADY FORSAKEN US.



LIVING THERE
WAS NEVER EASY.



OUR TEACHERS REQUIRED
STRICT DISCIPLINE.



MISTAKES WERE
NEVER TOLERATED.



BUT THE EDUCATION
WE RECEIVED WAS
UNPARALLELED.

AND THOSE OF US WHO
PERSEVERED WERE REWARDED
WITH EMPLOYMENT.



AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, I
AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING
EFFICIENCY AND STABILITY OF
MY ORGANIZATION.

I AM ALWAYS
METICULOUS.

I AM ALWAYS
JUDICIOUS.

I, ALONE, AM RESPONSIBLE FOR
KEEPING MY EMPLOYER SAFE...

...AND CONTENT.





KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.
WEDNESDAY.

SO, MISTER
CHING, I TRUST
YOU'RE ENJOYING
YOUR TIME IN OUR
FAIR COUNTRY?

THIS IS FRANCIS WAI-HONG
CHING. PRESIDENT AND
CEO OF CHINGCORP.



THE TRUTH,
MISTER SAFIN?

OF COURSE,
MY FRIEND.

FRANKLY I FIND
YOUR CITY AND ITS
PEOPLE QUITE
DISTASTEFUL.

AND I WORRY
THAT I WILL NEVER
GET THE STENCH OF
KABUL OFF OF MY
CLOTHES.

<IRIS. TEA.>*

ONE OF THE SECRETS OF MY EMPLOYER'S
SUCCESS IS THAT HE'S WILLING TO GO TO
PLACES THAT OTHERS WON'T DARE.

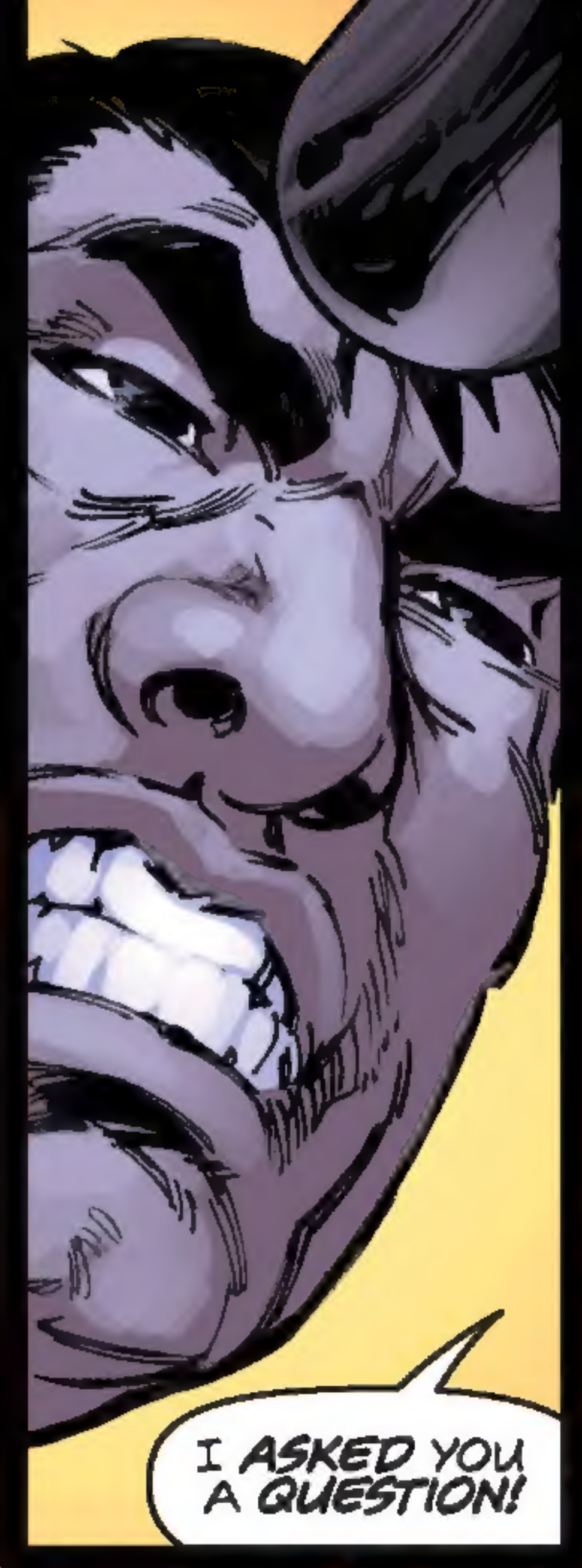
THAT FEARLESS PHILOSOPHY HAS
HELPED BUILD CHINGCORP INTO A MULTI-
BILLION DOLLAR MULTI-NATIONAL
CORPORATION WITH OFFICES ON SIX
DIFFERENT CONTINENTS.

MY EMPLOYER.

*[TRANSLATED
FROM CHINESE
MANDARIN.]

HAHAHA!
YOU'RE AN
ENTERTAINING
MAN, MISTER
CHING. I BELIEVE
I SHALL ENJOY
DOING
BUSINESS
WITH YOU.





I ASKED YOU
A QUESTION!



WHXX

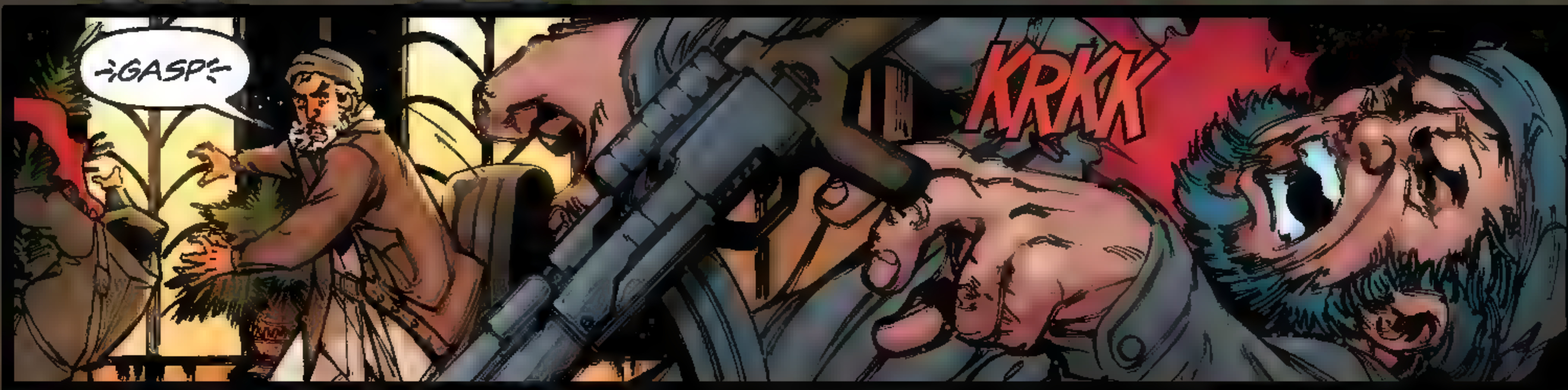
MY PRIMARY TASK IS
TO ENSURE HIS SAFETY.



THUMP



AND I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.



READ MORE IN THE PAGES OF

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

IRIS v.1

ON SALE NOW!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS Volume 2



Acteia, a new Executive Assistant, emerges following the assassination attempt on a powerful widow, Diane Coverdale. The wealthy businesswoman decided her protection was inadequate, and in Dubai, purchased the contract of Acteia following her decisive victory in a competitive death match. Little did the pair know about Iris' involvement in the assassination attempt in service of coercing Coverdale to beef up her personal security.

The pairing was a success, as Acteia forcefully removed any semblance of danger from Coverdale's visible public life. However, the young and exuberant executive assistant was ambushed and subsequently incapacitated at Coverdale's mansion by Iris in the dead of night.

Awakening in a secret underground facility, Acteia quickly used her wits and deadly acumen to overwhelm her guards and surveillance. However, upon reaching the surface, she was shocked to

discover she was in fact held captive on an exotic beach mansion, in the company of executive assistants Iris and Rose.

In private, Acteia would discover a surgical scar on the back of her neck leading her to question more than simply her geographical location. Later, she would be introduced to the owner of the mansion, billionaire magnate, Duncan Villone, as he hosted the assassins at a beachside dinner. Villone informed her of his intent to utilize the executive assistants to secure his global machinations—including Acteia.

That night, the captive Acteia decided to take matters into her own hands by infiltrating Villone's bedroom suite and holding him at gunpoint. Yet, he was able to gain the upper hand on her and force her exit to the mansion grounds—where she was greeted by the arrival of Iris and Rose ready to fight.

The pair of seasoned executive assistants was able to overwhelm the overmatched Acteia, but Villone appeared and surprisingly allowed her to leave on her own accord.

But, Villone's power play was only just the beginning, as he would later appear at Coverdale Industries' board meeting in an attempt to purchase a majority stake in the company. Coverdale resisted the overture but agreed to further negotiate with Villone at his penthouse suite in Las Vegas.

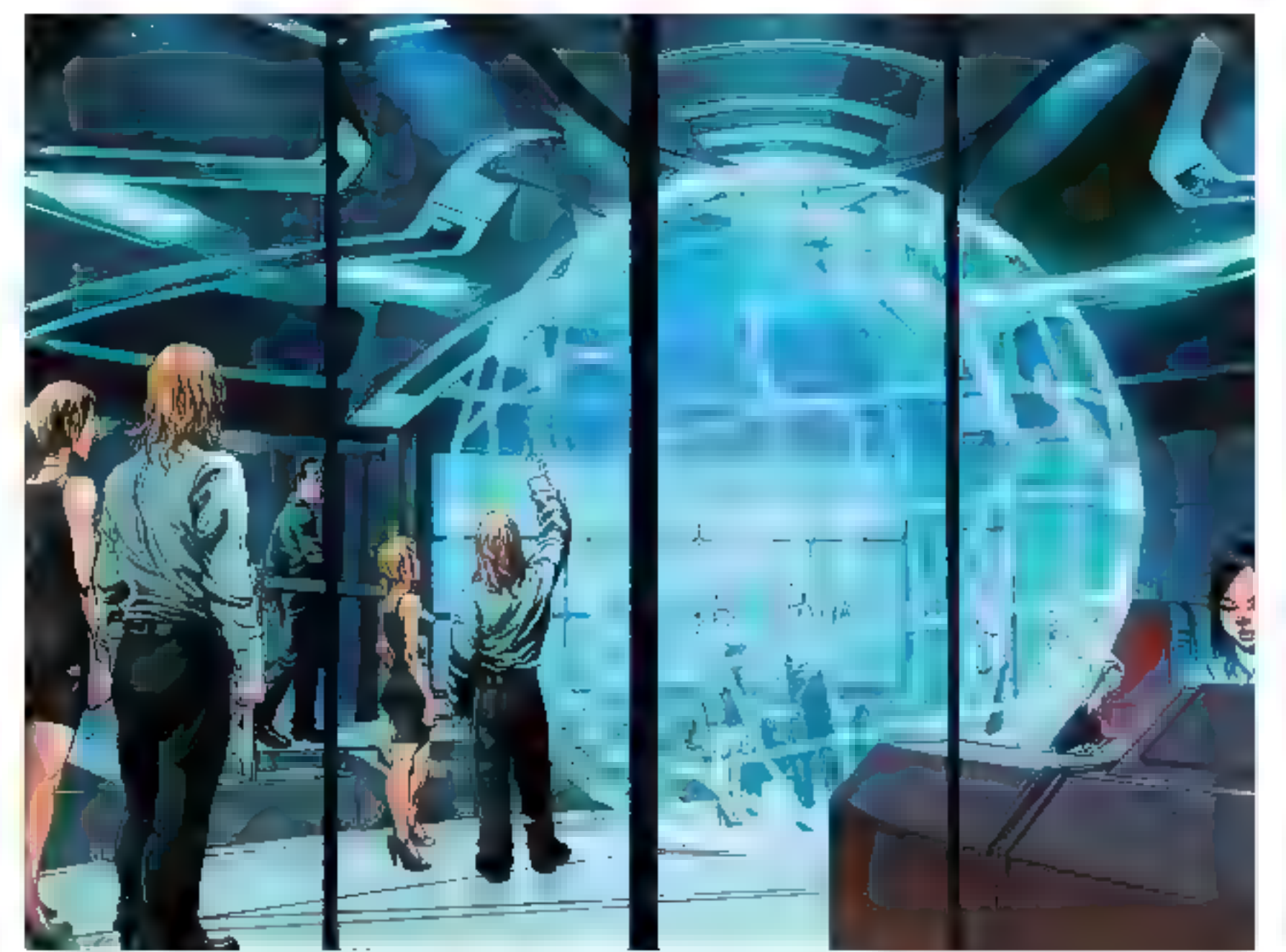
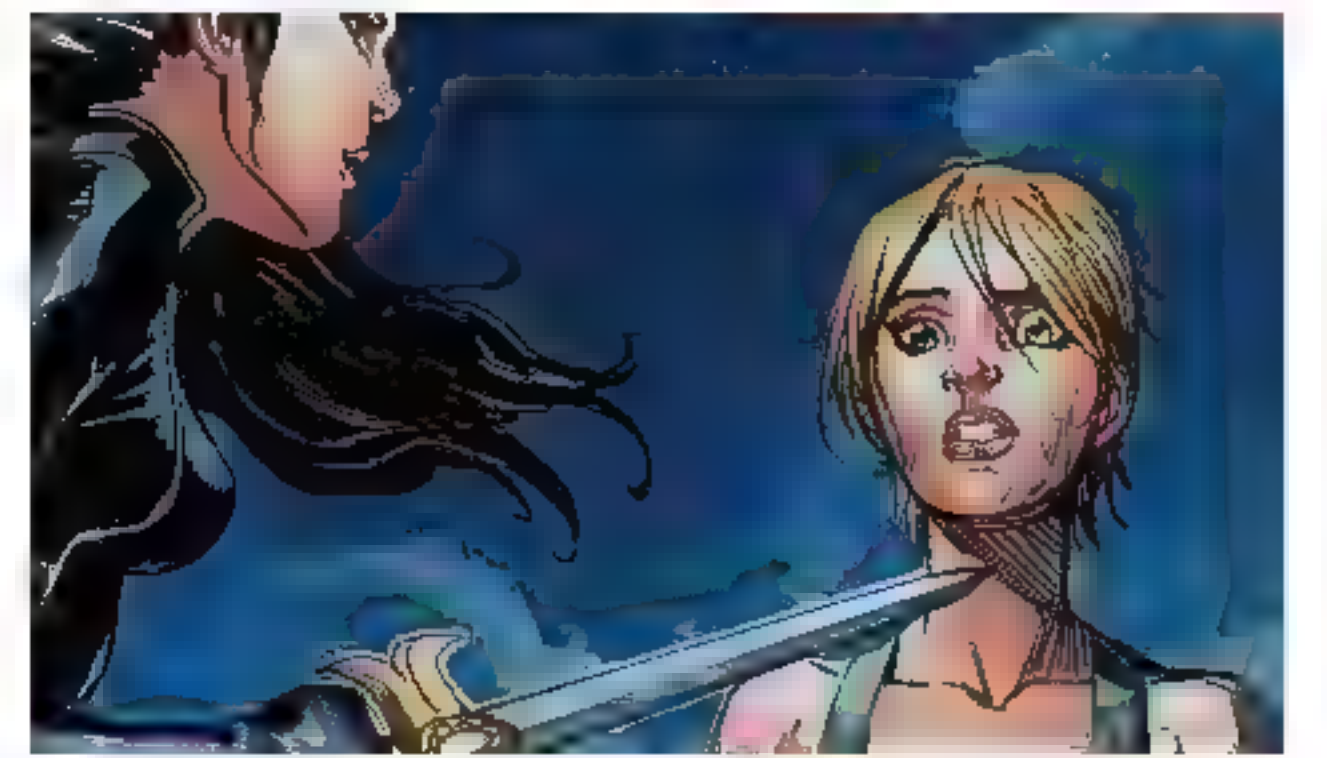


subdued by Rose's commands and the chip still implanted in her. Rose commanded Iris to personally wait alongside the bomb as its timer counted down.

Rose and Juniper escaped the Velchem plant but unaware to them was the arrival of Executive Assistants Lotus and Violet, who managed to knock out Iris and take her to safety. The pair helped Iris surgically remove the chip implanted in her that controlled her actions, and the group stormed Villone's island hideout for retribution.

The group of Villone victims, including Lotus, Orchid, Violet and Lily, attempted to storm the beachfront mansion but the sheer amount of Villone's security was too much even for the group of Executive Assistants, as they were taken prisoner.

In a final standoff, Villone killed his own executive assistant, Juniper, for her indiscretions. But, unbeknownst to him, Rose was no longer under his control, and once she found the opportunity, she turned on her employer by stabbing him in the stomach, killing him.



The negotiation, however, turned out to be a bloodbath, as Coverdale continued to resist Villone's offer, to fatal results. Villone used his mysterious control over Acteia to force her to murder her employer by gunshot. Following Coverdale's death, Acteia appeared to show visible remorse, and so Villone ordered Iris to slay Acteia.

Following a chance encounter with Executive Assistant Orchid at a rooftop gala, Iris was warned by her not to trust Villone or the device implanted in her neck. Iris began to doubt her role in the group's activities, and soon planned her escape during a Villone mission to bomb a Velchem Chemical plant. Inside the plant, Iris turned on Villone's new executive assistant, Juniper, but was



Executive Assistant: Iris v2 TPB in stores NOW!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS Volume 3



Iris found herself in the employ of a new businessman, John Wheeler, although she was not fond of his naiveté in matters of his own personal security. Following an attack on his limousine in which Iris saved his life, she was taken into custody by the NYPD. Iris was taken to a remote facility, where it was revealed that she was in fact working for the CIA's, Agent Dawson, to gather intel on Wheeler in exchange for avoiding prison time.

Upon returning to Wheeler's residence, Iris was dismayed to discover that his girlfriend had been murdered by Rose, who shockingly greeted Iris. The pair rekindled their relationship by fighting to the death, but Iris managed to gain the upper hand in combat and forced Rose to reveal the whereabouts of her employer before releasing her into the CIA's custody.

Wheeler was kidnapped by the perpetrator of the limo attack, a man named Tzetomir Ivanov. The Bronx Zoo was the scene of Ivanov's staged execution of Wheeler, as he set a trap for Iris to rescue him. When Iris arrived, Ivanov's thugs were dispatched by her capable hands, but he had one surprise in store for her—Executive Assistant Jasmine.

Iris and Jasmine fought briefly, but the arrival of the CIA put an end to the skirmish. Back on the Lower East Side, Iris met up with Agent Dawson where she learned Rose was let loose by the authorities due to her connection to the world's leading arms dealer, Mazutsu. Learning that Rose had fled to India, Iris decided to follow.

In India, Iris arrived just in time to rescue Lotus, Orchid and Lily before Rose was able to kill them. The group interrogated Rose but were ambushed by the arrival of Executive Assistant Ivy, who quickly overwhelmed the group with her impressive fighting tactics. Ivy took Rose and left the group defeated.

Iris caught a charter flight back to the States courtesy of The Agency, but upon her arrival on U.S. soil, she was taken into custody by the Deputy Director of the CIA, Charles Murphy. The Director warned Iris not to involve herself in matters of Mazutsu or Wheeler, leaving Iris stranded on the side of the road. Yet, Agent Dawson defied her orders by picking up Iris and helping her.

Dawson believed Wheeler was still in danger from Ivanov and sent Iris to protect the businessman at his government-assigned safe-house. The safe house was soon attacked by Ivanov's thugs along with Jasmine. Iris and Jasmine fought each other, and Iris subdued her long enough to be taken into custody by the Police.

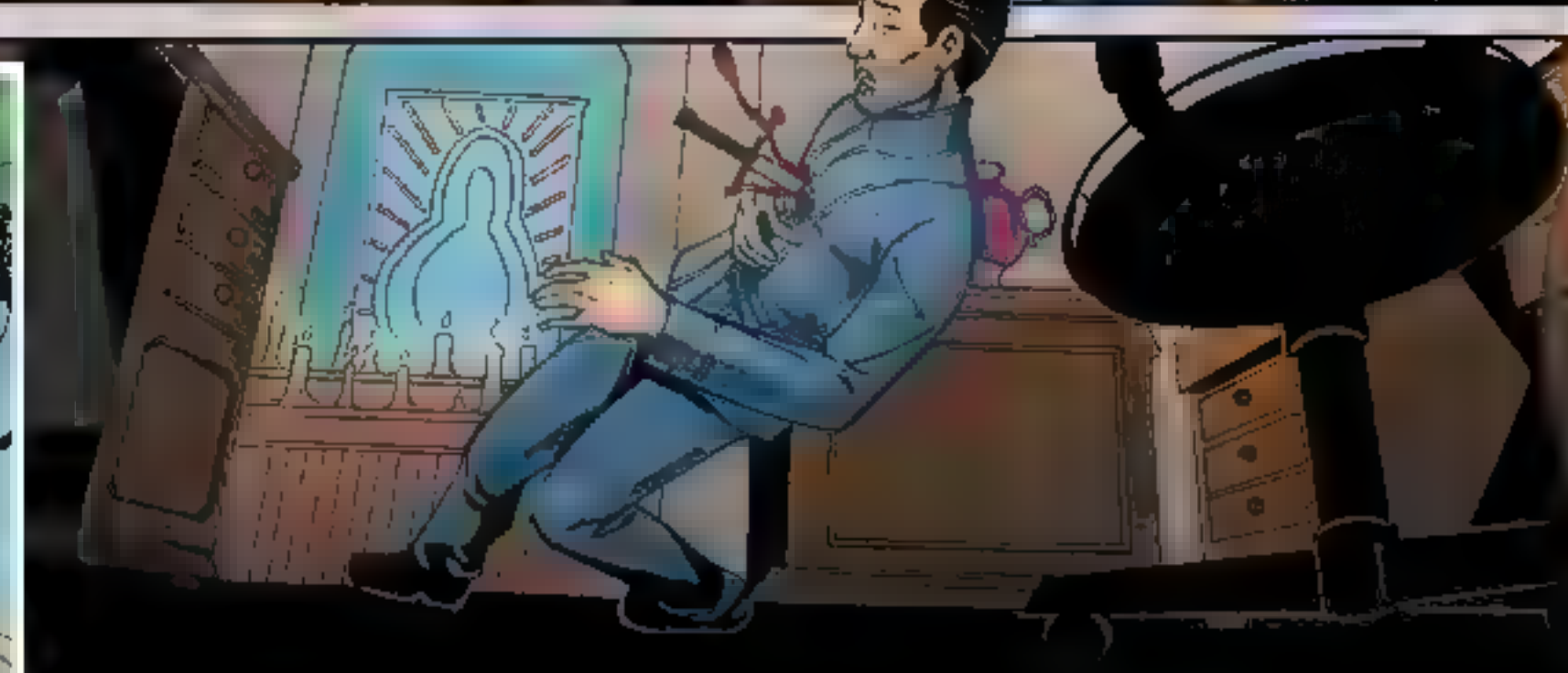
Iris learned of the murder of her old foe-turned-ally Lily, at the hands of Mazutsu, and soon found herself in Tokyo. There, Iris shockingly met with Rose, who was fired by Mazutsu and put on notice for her own death warrant. The two



reluctantly formed a truce to avenge Lily's death. However, the rest of the executive assistants were not pleased at the new alliance with their former adversary, Rose.

The team, along with a now-turned Ivy, attacked Mazutsu at his corporate headquarters, but he was able to flee before his capture. Yet, Rose later located him at his secret temple that she knew about due to her work for him. Rose took it upon herself to personally impale Mazutsu with her dagger, killing him. As well, she tried to turn on Iris once again, only to be stabbed first and left to bleed out and die.

Later, the ladies visited the cemetery to pay their last respects to Lily's gravesite.



Executive Assistant: Iris v3 TPB in stores NOW!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS Volume 4



Iris returned to Wuhan, China, the site of her upbringing and training as an executive assistant. There, she met with a businesswomen, Maly Ang, who was holding tryouts for her security detail. Iris' presence forced the other candidates to flee en masse out of intimidation—except one, Executive Assistant Snapdragon. The two clearly did not see eye-to-eye, but agreed to follow Ang to The Purple Blossom to prove their mettle to her in person.

At the club, Ang met with a set of businessmen that refused to acknowledge her place in the pecking order beneath her mentor Han Li Shao, leading to a pistol standoff. Iris and Snapdragon quickly went to work, disbanding their enemies. A witness caught the fight on her smart phone and was nearly killed by Snapdragon before Iris intervened, saving the young lady. Iris found herself at odds with Ang's reckless methods and removed herself from the candidacy.



Later, at The Wuhan Academy, Ang approached Iris to reveal that she knew Shao had set her up, to which Iris divulged that she also knew about the betrayal. Yet, the pair was ambushed and surrounded by Shao and his mercenaries. It was discovered that Ang was honor bound to Shao as an Executive Assistant and as a former lover, and bore him a daughter out of wedlock. Ang hid the young girl in her academy.

Iris managed to get the jump on Shao and held him at knifepoint, but the odds were not in her favor due to Shao's army of mercs, so he was able to escape. Meanwhile, Iris made the fateful decision to get involved in the lover's quarrel in order to save the life of the young girl. Armed with a photo of her, Iris raced to intercept Shao's henchmen before they could identify and take out the girl. Iris was successful and managed to escape with her before Shao's men could stop them.

Back at the home of Shao, he was visited by someone looking to even the odds—Snapdragon. The executive assistant took Shao up on his offer of ten million for the bounty on Iris' head.



The young girl, Cherry Blossom, and Iris did not get off to a good start together, as the stubborn Cherry refused to go along with Iris. Leading Iris on a chase through the water and a local mall, the pair ran headfirst into Snapdragon and more of Shao's men. A fight ensued, but Iris used her extraordinary talents to ensnare one of Shao's helicopters in the air and used it to escape along with Cherry.

Iris prepared to hand-off Cherry to Ang but was surprised instead by the Cambodian Triad, in the company of Snapdragon. The triad used a stun gun to incapacitate Iris and take Cherry, offering her up on the open market to the highest bidder.

For her part in the acquisition, Snapdragon was allowed to take Iris and soon forced her to fight in open combat. This turned out to be an ill-fated decision, as Iris eventually defeated her and beheaded the overconfident Snapdragon.

At the Shao-Ang Green Tower, Ang and Shao quarreled over the future of their daughter as Iris

arrived to settle the score. However, Maly dropped a bombshell on Iris as she explained that the contract she signed was actually to protect Cherry as her executive assistant.

Iris tore apart the Chinese underworld in search of Cherry, eventually finding her tied to a bed inside a seedy apartment. With little time to spare, Iris and Cherry narrowly escaped an onslaught of Shao's thugs, but only with the sudden help of Cherry's mother, Maly.

The trio led Shao into an ambush at the Wuhan Academy, using the school as bait while the students were already evacuated. Ang bought them some time by blowing up the academy, and gathering all of the pupils for one final mission, to storm Shao's headquarters. The army of executive

assistants was successful, as Iris managed to impale Shao with her sword during the fight. Yet, she left the final death blow for Maly, as the two lovers shared a final goodbye before she put him out of his misery.

Executive Assistant: Iris v4 TPB in stores NOW!



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS The Hitlist Agenda

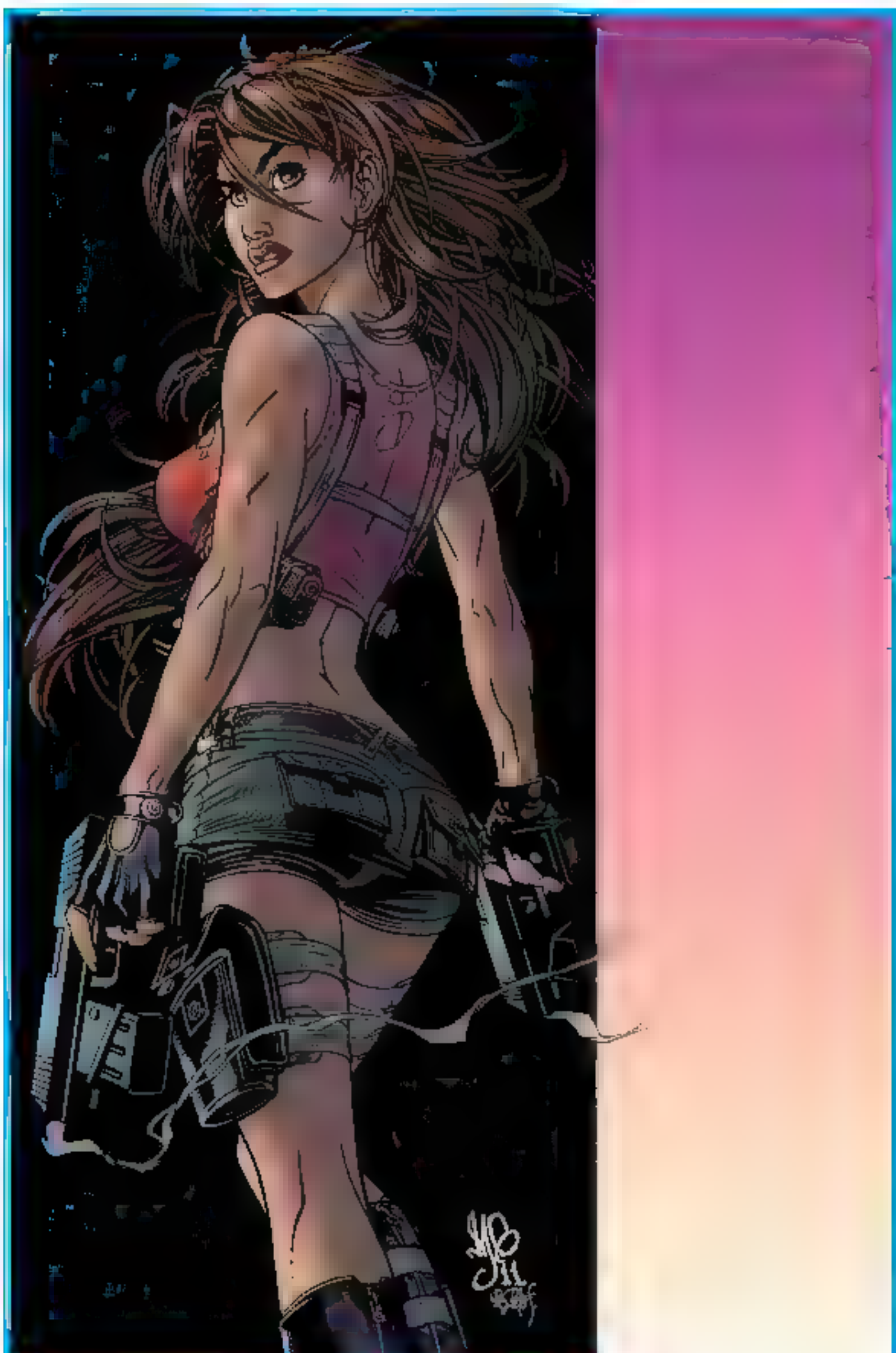


Executive Assistant: Lotus

In Alwar, India, a young lady, Rani, was a wealthy and highly capable assassin by trade. She employed a fatal arsenal of techniques to hit her marks built on the foundation of her technical expertise. However, her actions took a tragic surprise turn one night, when she mistakenly shot the young daughter of her mark, rather than the target, her father, Virat Yadav. As penance for her sins, Rani agreed to become Yadav's executive assistant with the moniker Lotus, in honor of the slain child.

Six months into the job, Rani would come into contact with a powerful businessman, Mr. Ching, and his executive assistant, Iris, by way of Yadav's geopolitical maneuvers. One day during her service to Yadav, the businessman instructed Rani to stay behind while he visited his executive assistant academy in Myanmar to check on his investment. Lotus chose to ignore the order, sensing that something was amiss.

However, the ploy was a trap set by Yadav to ambush Lotus as she shadowed him in Myanmar, as it was learned he never truly forgave her for the slaying of his daughter. Lotus snuck into the academy only to discover a fully-trained group of Executive Assistants waiting to murder her. Yet, Lotus proved her mettle by dispatching of the group of assassins and eventually killing Yadav, and freeing herself of her oath of servitude to him.



Executive Assistant: Orchid

A hired assassin for the Cordova drug cartel, Executive Assistant Orchid was assigned to protect the family's loose cannon son, Umberto. Orchid performed her tasks with deadly precision, yet the secrets of her past—and the scar on her neck, led many to question her loyalty. She was sent to Dallas, Texas in order to kidnap the head of a powerful conglomerate known as Worldspan, Mr. Vance Upworth.

Upon successful completion of the assignment, the boss of the Cordova family tortured Upworth for intel on a mysterious assassin that was disrupting the family's drug business in bloody fashion. Meanwhile, Orchid was dispatched to an undisclosed location in Texas to murder a high-powered collection of industry titans while Umberto filmed the massacre for proof. Yet, Orchid saved one final surprise for him—as she beheaded the capricious Umberto.

Later awakening at a gas station, Orchid began to recover her own thoughts and memories, but was flooded with emotional conflict. Luckily, she was rescued by Executive Assistant Iris, who uncovered the neural chip that her former employer, Duncan Villone, used to control various executive assistants around the globe. It was revealed that Orchid was, in fact, the mysterious assassin playing both sides. Orchid would extract the chip on her own, and eventually pay vengeance to the head of the Cordova family.



Executive Assistant: Violet

Following the poison homicide of his father, action film star Henry Vincent took it upon himself to acquire the services of a formidable executive assistant, Violet, for impenetrable protection. But, even the safety she provided couldn't shield Vincent from the ire of his late father's company, Velchem, and its board of directors. In the wake of a Velchem factory explosion that was later attributed to Iris under Villone's orders, the board began to feel pressure by eco-friendly activists.

During one heated boardroom session, a squad of hired mercenaries crashed through the windows, attempting to take out Vincent. Violet quickly neutralized the threat, but later was outed to the world via a news crew. One woman that was alerted to her new role was Executive Assistant Aster, Violet's mother.

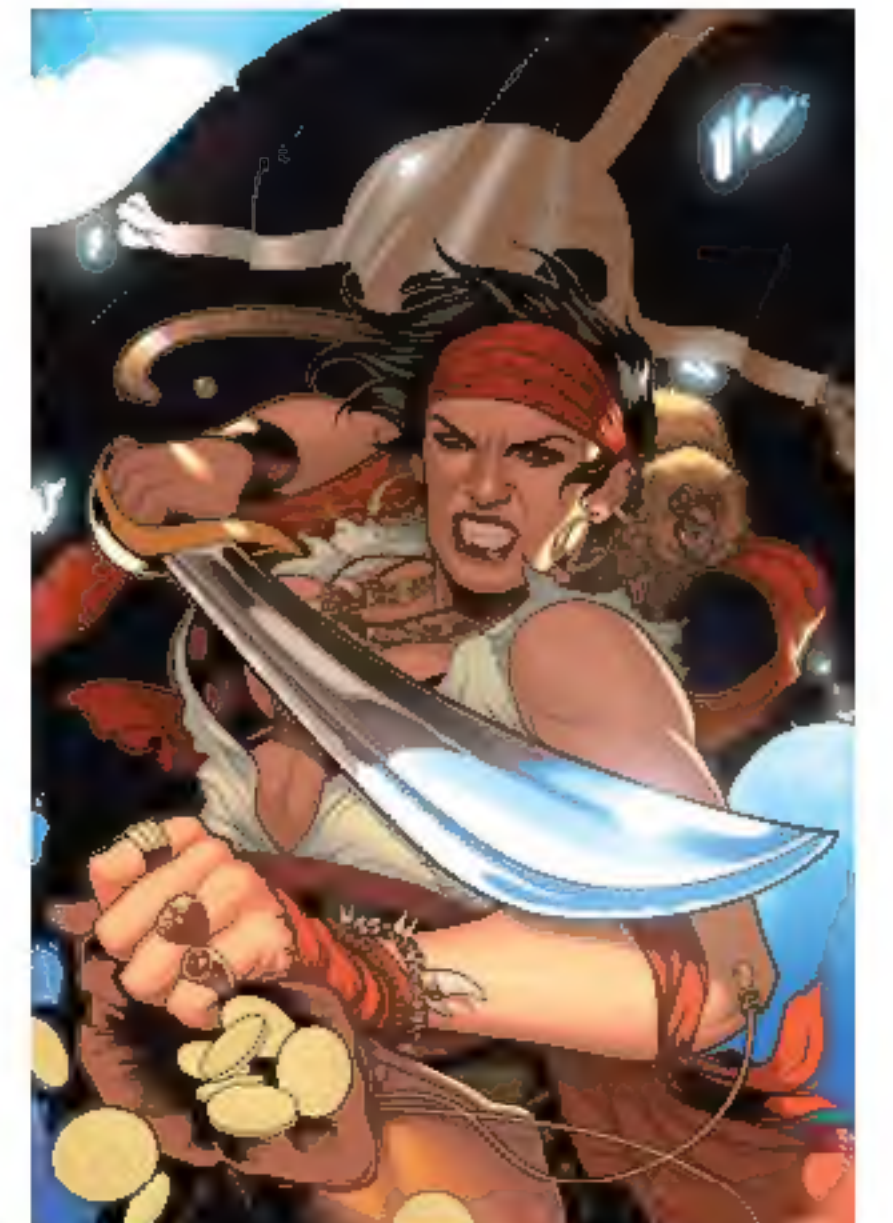
After a brief reunion of mother and daughter over combat, the pair joined forces in order to save Vincent from the threat attacking Velchem. It was discovered that Duncan Villone was behind the plot, as his attempts to take over Velchem led to him implanting a chip into Violet to control her. Attempting to use her to murder Vincent, Violet resisted and in a surprising turn of events, Vincent saved Violet's life by taking a bullet for her. Later, Violet would threaten Villone with revenge and was visited by two new allies, Executive Assistants Lotus and Orchid.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS



“Life After Death” — Executive Assistant Lily found herself at rock bottom, working as a dancer at a seedy nightclub in Shinjuku, Japan. However, her predicament would soon become much worse, as she discovered she was a pivotal pawn in a deadly game of geo-political warfare. After the discovery of her former boss’ role as an informant for the CIA, Lily was soon hunted by the world’s most powerful arms dealer, Mazutsu Sai, a man looking to rid the world of all executive assistants. With the help of an agency ally known as Cope, Lily was able to stave off Mazutsu’s initial wave of attacks but not without great cost—as Cope lost his life in defense of Lily. While she escaped with her life, Lily swore vengeance on Mazutsu.

“Lost at Sea” — Under the flag of the pirate Tikoté, Executive Assistant Sophora was a formidable tool for the ship’s nefarious activities. Sophora had only known a life at The Academy before her introduction to the sea, but she instantly fell for the lure of the tides. However, her dark action would soon lead her to question her role among the band of mercenaries. Even worse, she soon fell for and began a romance with Landon, a young pirate aboard the ship. Catching wind of the illicit affair, the ship’s brutal captain, Tikoté, set a trap for the pair and forced Sophora to shoot her own lover. Unable to do so, she instead shot off his locks and the two of them successfully took command of



the ship in combat, tossing an unarmed Tikoté into the ocean. Following the battle, Sophora left Landon in order to truly be free.

“Executive Extinction” — Lily took the fight to Mazutsu by locating and assassinating his top assassin, Lilac, but the arms dealer offered little remorse for the loss of yet another disposable weapon, even a human life. Lily soon reunited with Executive Assistant Iris, who revealed her role working with the CIA. Lily fled to India along with Executive Assistants Aster and Orchid in order to recruit Lotus for her considerable wealth and resources. They arrived too late, as Executive Assistant Rose first attacked Lotus before the trio arrived to even the odds. Rose nearly defeated all three by herself before Iris arrived to subdue her. However, the tables turned once more by the surprise arrival of a new Executive Assistant, Ivy, who soon took them all by storm. Yet, the group was able to eventually turn Ivy, and lead Mazutsu to an abandoned warehouse, where a final battle was staged between him and the executive assistants. Rose and Lily fought to the death, but Lily was too much for Rose and eventually gained the upper hand. But, shockingly, as she focused on Rose, Mazutsu shot Lily in the back of the head.



“Bloodline” — Executive Assistant Lotus was raised as “Rani” under the tutelage of her assassin father in India. Yet, her father’s industry was a continual source of danger for the pair, and one night forced them to flee their mansion home and take residence in a safe house. Their safety was anything but, though, as his chief competition known as “The Tiger” soon tracked them down and murdered her father. Rani dedicated her young adult life to training as the greatest assassin and soon made her own name for herself, drawing the ire of The Tiger. Rani was soon attacked in her home by The Tiger, who stunningly revealed to her that she was her long-lost mother. The pair traded assaults before Rani gained the upper hand by planting an explosive device in a family heirloom. With both of her parents out of the picture, Rani grew up fast, with only her pet tiger that she adopted from her murdered mother.

“Daisy” — The young woman, Daisy, lived in the shadow of her controlling father on their plantation. Years of abuse and torment made Daisy mentally unstable, and during one violent altercation with her father, Daisy stabbed him and escaped their home. She made it just far enough to collapse on the doorstep of a black market dealer named Shen. Soon the two fell in love and married, and Shen took Daisy to an Eastern Chinese village and an Executive Assistant Academy to strengthen her resolve. In the Academy, Daisy’s violent tendencies took form as her psychological problems continued to grow. As well, her father still gave chase and hired an assassin to track the pair down and retrieve Daisy. In the ensuing fight, Shen was shot and Daisy’s true violent nature exposed, as she tore the assassin’s eye from its socket before killing him. Returning home, Daisy finally found justice by killing her father. Yet, her sadistic nature was fully realized, as she continues to haunt the streets of New Orleans looking to satisfy her thirst for blood.



“Blood Origin” — Sisters Hana and Mayu grew up in the village streets of Qinghai, China, using their thieving wits to survive. As adults, Hana became a world class fighter and trainer while her older sister Mayu used her talents to become a professional thief. When their childhood friend, Li, is murdered in cold blood, Hana took it upon herself to find the killer. At first, she suspected Li’s competition, the high-powered figure Renshu, but it later turned out he was a friend of Li’s from his past. However, Mayu was arrested for an attempted robbery and Hana was forced to work for Renshu as an executive assistant, Daffodil, in order to take out his rival Zhou Kang and free her sister.



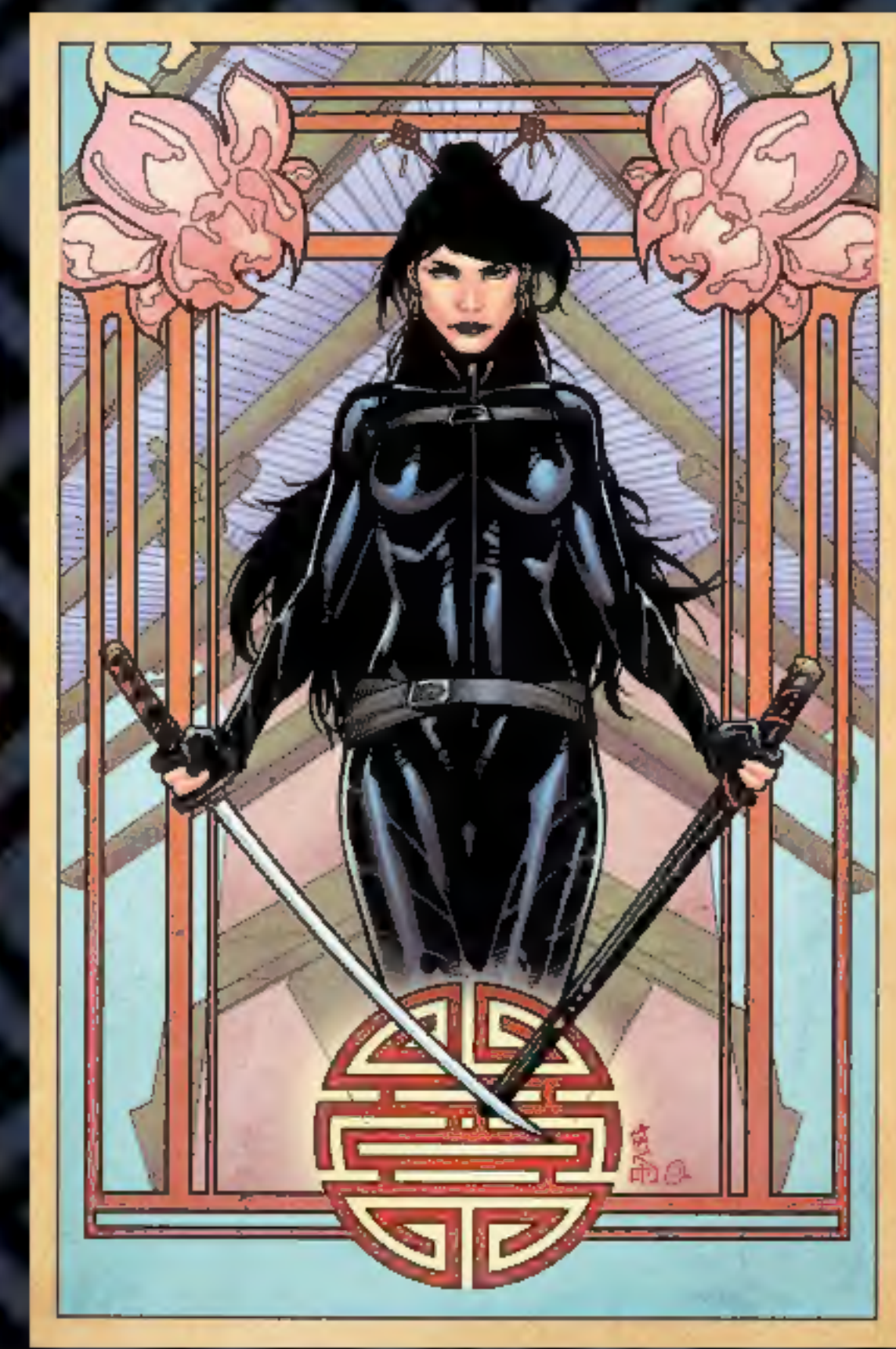
The plan nearly worked as they took up residence in an abandoned temple-turned-training facility. That is, until Hana discovered it was Li’s fiancé from his past, Chun, that was behind a double-cross that involved both Renshu and his rival Kang. Chun was able to get the drop on Mayu and slay her, resulting in Hana finding and killing her in combat. Hana would soon re-establish the academy with the remaining pupils, creating a network of executive assistants that span the globe.

Executive Assistant: Assassins v1 & v2 TPBs in stores NOW!

ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IRIS

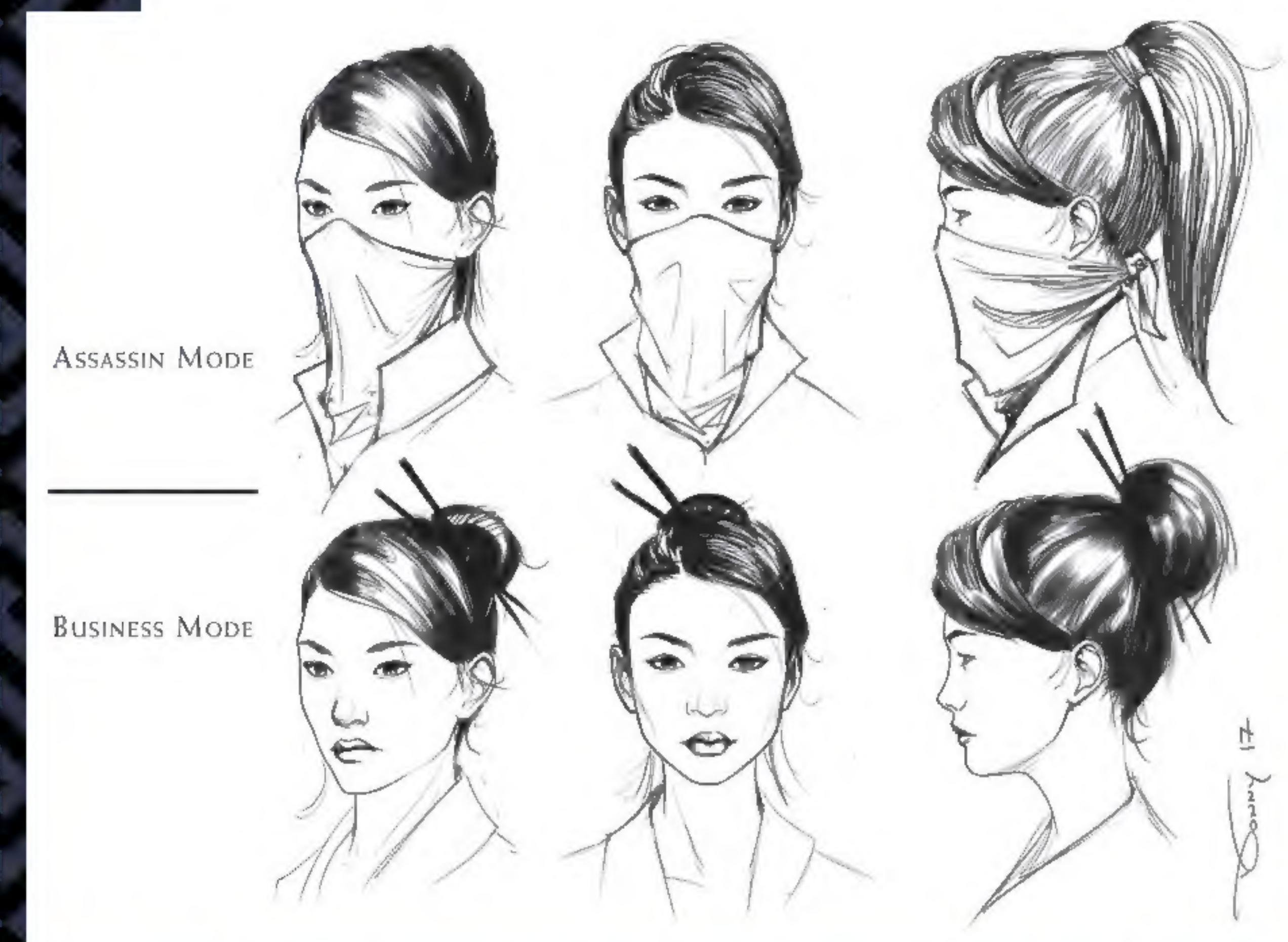
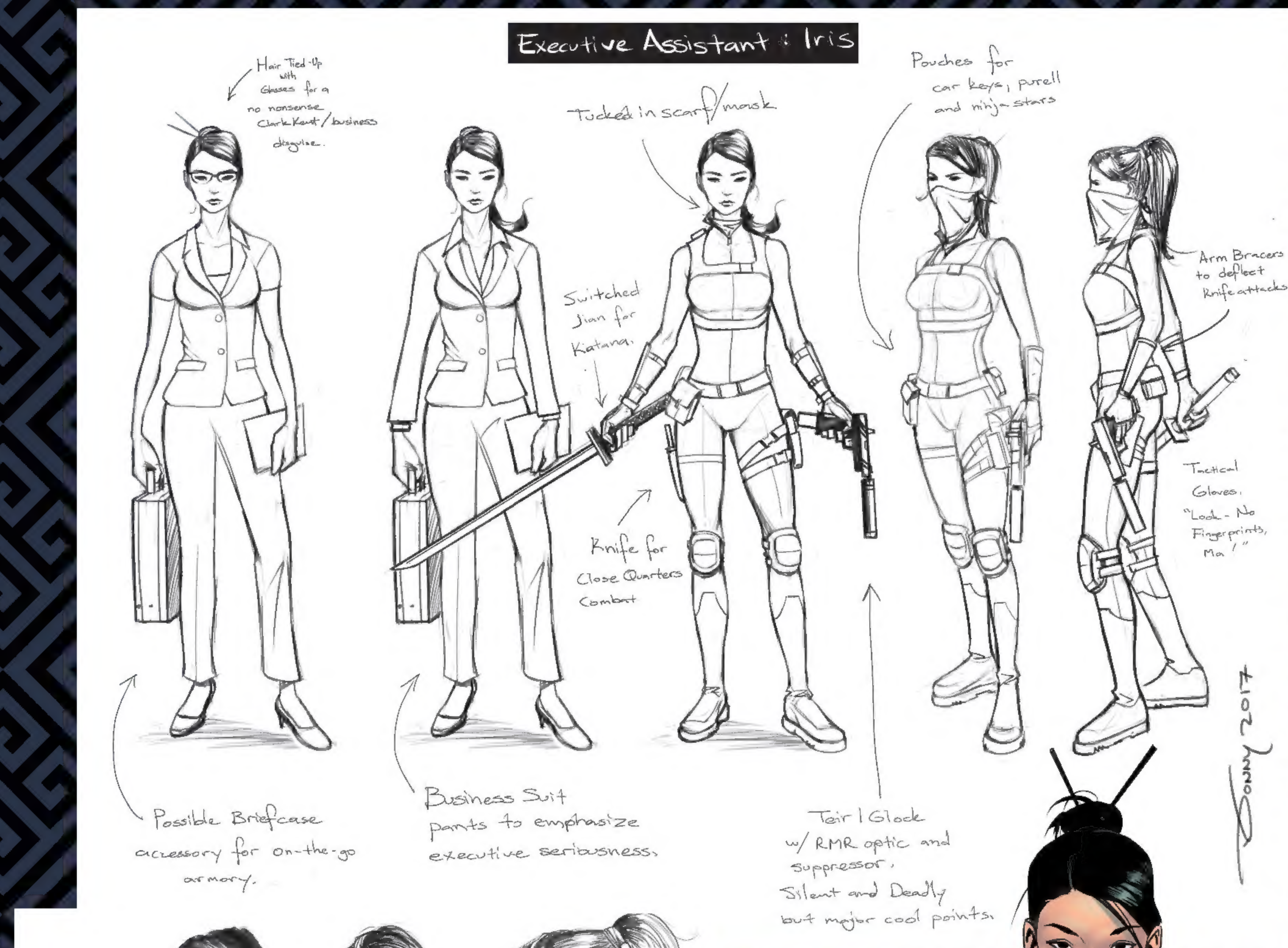
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Aspen Comics' hit action-adventure assassin series marks its 10-Year Anniversary with a brand new pulse-pounding volume!



I'm so excited about *Executive Assistant: Iris* because she has such a rich legacy, but taking her on new adventures is only part of the upcoming series.

There are so many fantastic stories where a hero returns to action after a lengthy retirement, knowing their best years are behind them. And while that's a great jumping-off point, I couldn't start there because Iris is a long way from hanging up her swords. She's still young, fast, and stronger than ever...but she's acutely aware that someone just a little younger, a little faster, and a little stronger is always lurking around the corner—someone about to come into their prime.



Concept designs by series artist, Donny Tran.



For a combat athlete (like a boxer, or UFC fighter) lagging a split-second behind means being knocked unconscious. But in a world of assassins, the stakes are considerably higher: zigging when you should have zagged won't result in a loss on your record—it results in death.

That's where Iris starts off the new series: questioning her mortality in a time when gods and monsters are being introduced, dramatically changing the landscape.

If you love the action, pacing and world-building of Iris, that's very much intact—but I'm layering in some mystery elements that unfold from month to month, culminating with an epic showdown in the final issue.

Donny Tran has such a precise, meticulous style—it's such a treat to look at. But his real superpower is rendering facial expressions. At a glance you get a sense of what each character is thinking or feeling without having to refer to dialogue balloons. It's uncanny. Aspiring artists should take note.

It's a blast opening my e-mail and seeing new pages as they're completed, because Donny's creative choices—whether it's a camera angle or a little background detail that spices up a page—always blows me away. He's not only a consummate professional, but he brings a lot of joy to the creative process.

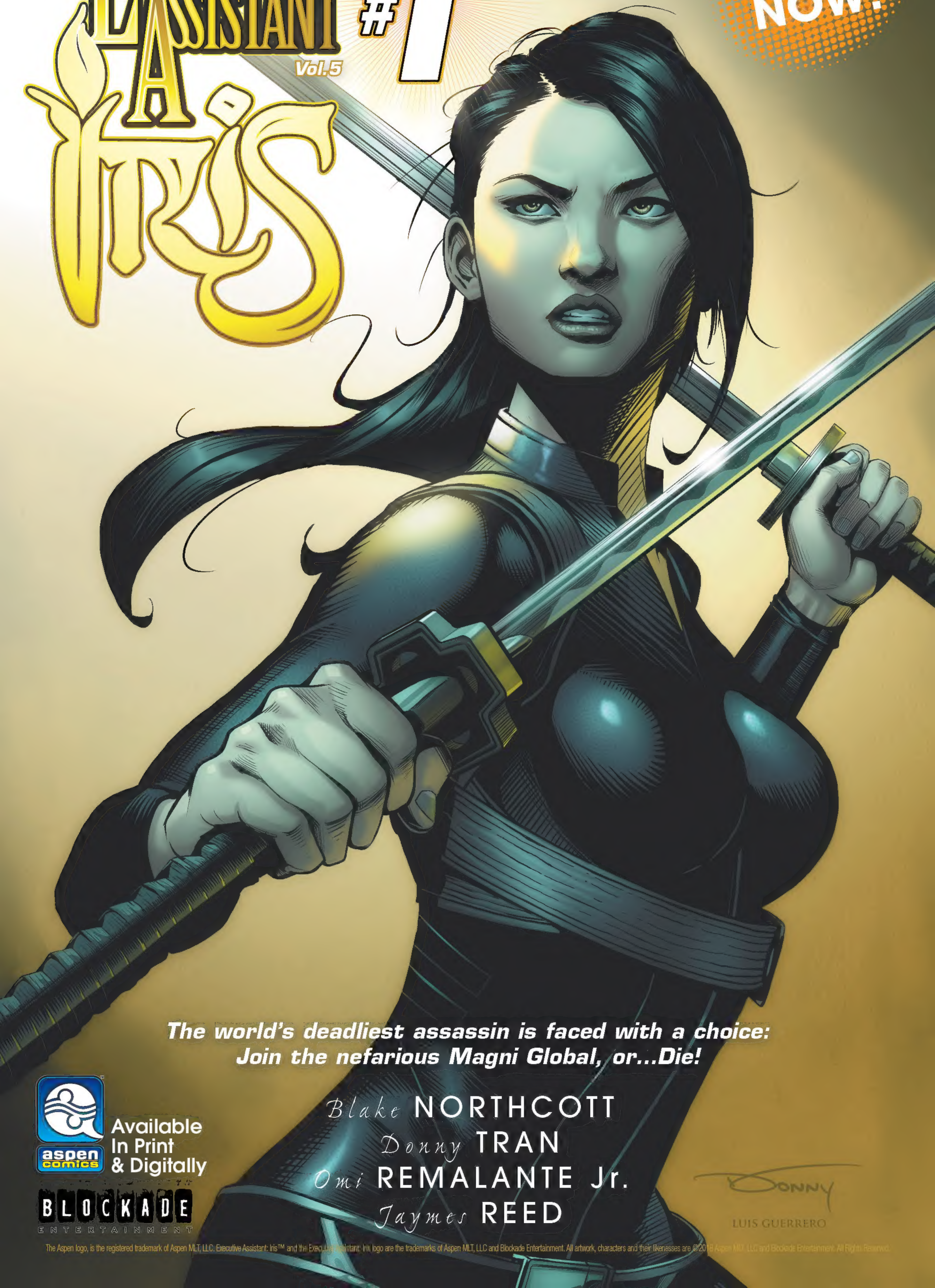
This is going to be a run of *Executive Assistant: Iris* like you've never seen before!

—Blake Northcott

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT™ IRIS #1

Vol. 5

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